

S.G.A. GRAPPLES WITH BUDGET

by William Kovascik

The senate of the student government association met on Sunday, October 15, to consider the budget presented by president Mark Beckett. Since the S.G.A. had less money available to fund the organizations which operate under its auspices, the budget this year proved to be a source of controversy as the legislators convened to examine the monetary allocations for 1978-79.

The financial resources of the S.G.A. suffered cutbacks for several reasons. First, the new regulations of the Extra Classroom Activities Board increased the reserve maintained by the E.C.A.B. by 50%, thus draining money normally available to the S.G.A. and the Communications Board. Also, two new clubs (Rugby and Inter-Arts) were added to S.G.A. supervision this year. Rugby, which was funded for one semester by the E.C.A.B. last year, requested a budget from the S.G.A. covering its activities for the entire year. In addition to these factors, there was an abnormally small amount left over from last year's General Fee money. This unexpended cash usually provides a source of added revenue for the E.C.A.B. Due to this combination of circumstances, the S.G.A. projected that they would have \$7050 less to spend this year as compared with 1977-78 figures.

Beckett opened the presentation of the budget by explaining the procedure used by the administration in preparing the S.G.A. budget. Each organization funded by the S.G.A. was requested to submit three itemized budgets: a 90%, a 95%, and a 100% request. It was hoped that this process would give the executive board an idea about the priorities of each club. Beckett, vice-president Kathy Siebert, and S.G.A. treasurer Anna Zweede reviewed the requests and met with leaders from each organization during the week of September 24. Some initial budget cuts were agreed to at this time, while later cuts were made by Beckett and Zweede as they prepared to present a budget for the consideration of the senate. Extensive cuts were necessitated by the fact that the clubs requested a total of \$63,000, a sum that exceeded the student association's estimated allotment from the E.C.A.B. by more than \$23,000. The job of trimming which faced Beckett and Zweede was complicated by the fact that for some time, a final S.G.A. allocation was not available from the E.C.A.B.

Each organization was given the chance to come before the senate and field questions regarding its budget. Many of the clubs also made statements expressing their dissatisfaction with their share of the total.

The meeting was relatively sedate until Clint Bolick, presenting the budget of the Academic Forum, was given the floor and used this opportunity to sharply criticize the amount of money given to the Forensics society. Bolick voiced several objections to the Forensics allocation, all of which he explains in his letter to the editor.

Tolley senator George Risse responded to Bolick's arguments during his presentation of the Forensics budget. He enumerated what he felt were the weaknesses in Bolick's case. His arguments are contained in his letter to the editor.

Junior senator Marc Weiner proposed an amendment to the budget that called for the elimination of three-quarters of the Forensics allotment. Weiner suggested that the money saved be put into a reserve fund which the senate would divide among S.G.A.-supervised clubs at a later date. This amendment was rejected.

Forensics and Academic Forum were not the only "hot" issues confronted during the meeting, which ran over five hours. Several senators had questions concerning the budget of the social committee. Inquiries involved the selection of films, the necessity of spending money on films during the January term, the failure of the proposed Oktoberfest, and the extensive cost of office expenditures. Leon Williams answered these questions by explaining the methods by which he had chosen the films, and the high rate of attendance at January movies by Jan Plan participants. He also spoke about the organizational tangles which sunk the Oktoberfest, and the high cost of interstate phone bills to book concerts and films.

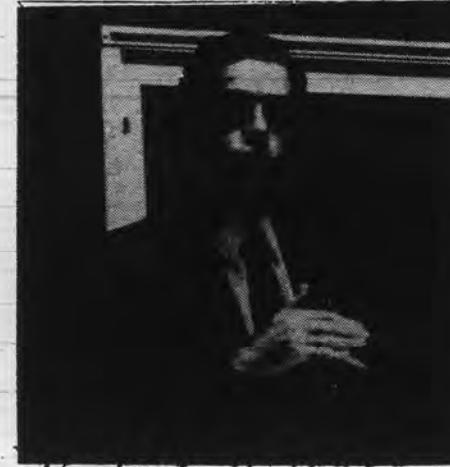
Williams also represented Hyera, the Third World student's organization. He responded to senate questioning regarding the nature of Hyera's scheduled events for the coming year.

The senate also asked for information from Jack Padron, president of the International Students Association. The major point of contention was the money budgeted for the I.S.A.'s planned trip to Montreal. Padron explained to the senators that the S.G.A. would be paying only part of the cost of bus rental, and that the rest would be paid by I.S.A. members themselves. Both Hyera and the I.S.A. impressed upon the senate that all events sponsored by both clubs were open to the entire Drew community.

Some members of the senate wanted to push back the final consideration of the budget until the next senate meeting. Beckett opposed this move on the grounds that the various clubs which rely on the S.G.A. for finances needed a budget immediately to facilitate their scheduling. A motion to approve the budget was rejected initially. Both Williams and Padron then made impassioned statements imploring the senate to act promptly in order to allow the clubs to operate effectively. Padron said that he felt that the senate had not acted in the best interests of the college, and commented, "I wish I had the political clout to vote some of you right out of here!"

After some more parliamentary haggling, a motion to reconsider the first vote on the budget was put on the floor by University senator Jody Klein. This motion passed, and the budget was approved.

After the meeting was adjourned, Beckett stated that he was relieved that the budget passed. "I honestly don't believe that we could have come up with a more equitable budget. Considering the economic crunch and the variety of difficulties which Anna and I had to deal with as we prepared this budget, I think that everyone got a fair shake."



Nobel Laureate, David Baltimore (top) moderated Thursday's Biomedical Research Awards symposium. Howard Goodman and Philip Leder received awards.

by Glen Esher

ECAB Fixes Budget

by Perry King

Despite the anguished moaning of campus clubs whose funds have been pared to the core, the Extra-Curricular Activities Board agreed on general budget allotment figures this week. The budgets of the two supervisory boards composing ECAB, the SGA and the Communications Board, fail by a long shot to match the inflated figure that individual clubs presented to the boards as a preliminary request. However, the budgets serve as a framework for the clubs to plan by.

Problems with unpaid bills delayed the formulation of an accurate ECAB financial picture. By the middle of this week, it was determined that only an old Social Committee bill of \$900 from 1976 and an \$800 for the '78 Oak Leaves yearbook were yet to be paid. The reserve budget left from last year stands at \$4,500 which when added to the conservative total estimate for this year's student activities fee leaves ECAB with a balance of \$85,000 to work with. This figure represents a \$3,000 decline from last year's budget.

Due to new supervisory procedures created by 77's Student Concerns Committee, ECAB has to withhold ten per cent rather than five per cent of the budget. The SCC wished to make the supervisory boards more vigilant in determining the effectiveness of their supervisory boards more vigilant in determining the effectiveness of their organizations, but the withdrawal of over \$4,000 from ECAB's preliminary allocation budget has put a severe crimp on funds. Already, the SGA has found it impossible to live within its proposed 47% (\$39,950) share of the budget and has been allocated an extra \$2,424. The Comm. Board's (\$3,550) slice of the pie will keep its organizations contented if not fat.

With the Rugby team and the Inter-Arts Association achieving full SGA

status this year, the cries for money have become more intense among the clubs, which include Academic Forum, Forensics, Hyera, International Students, JSO, SGA, Social Committee, Women's Collective and the Wilderness Club. In a meeting last Sunday between the SGA and club representatives, the senate was forced to prune the budget requests of all the organizations. Mark Beckett and Kathy Siebert had previously asked the clubs to get rid of unnecessary items. The resulting cuts ruffled the feelings of some groups, notably Academic Forum. Beckett was pleased at the budget that was finally passed after six hours of bitter debate. Women's Collective had not submitted a request by last Sunday, and its allocation may involve a second large chunk being taken out of the ECAB reserve.

Comm. Board has not finalized its individual groups' budgets yet, but it too will feel the pinch of the enlarged reserve. The Acorn, Oak Leaves, Photo Club, Plateau, and Werd are wary of allowing the SGA, which receives the majority of reserve allocations anyways, to use the withheld funds at such an early date. Comm. Board's financial position is much more comfortable than the SGA's, however, and right now the SGA must have more money.

ECAB is discussing the feasibility of lowering the reserve, but further action will have to be handled through the Student Concerns Committee and faculty. The estimated \$80,000 student fees figure is probably low, but Comptroller Clifford Smith is advising ECAB to plan conservatively until the amount of funds from a new spring enrollment can be determined. During the rest of the year, Budget Oversight Committees will check periodically to make sure clubs are using their funds wisely.